

# **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING METERED ACCOUNTING OF COMPUTER RESOURCES**

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

An apparatus and method provide the capability of metering temporary capacity  
5 on demand in a computer system in a way that allows one resource to benefit from unused  
billed capacity of a different resource. The actual use of a selected resource is monitored.  
When the selected resource is actually used, before charging the customer for the  
resource, a check is made to see if there is unused billed capacity of another resource that  
may be used by the selected resource. If so, the unused billed capacity of the other  
10 resource is "stolen" and used by the selected resource. If there is no unused billed  
capacity of another resource, a resource-time increment is billed for the use of the  
selected resource.